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SECURITY INFORMATION  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION FROM  
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD

COUNTRY Bulgaria  
SUBJECT Economic - Foreign trade  
HOW PUBLISHED Monthly periodical  
WHERE PUBLISHED New York  
DATE PUBLISHED Jun 1951  
LANGUAGE Bulgarian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1934 - 1948

DATE DIST. /6 Feb 1952

NO. OF PAGES 8

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Bulgarski Pregled, Vol VI, 1951.

CHANGES IN THE DIRECTION OF BULGARIAN  
FOREIGN TRADE SINCE WORLD WAR II

[It should be noted that figures and percentages in many columns in the tables below do not add up to the totals given.]

According to official Bulgarian statistics, the principal import and export commodities of Bulgaria before World War II were as follows:

Imports in 1938

	Tons	Million Leva	Percent of Total Imports
Chemical products	25,377	195	4
Paints, lacquers, tanning extracts	4,815	144	3
Mineral and other oils	94,865	199	4
Pharmaceuticals	201	102	2.1
Metals, metal products	134,605	1,146	23.2
Materials for paper industry, paper, cardboard	15,676	113	2.1
Leather, leather products	3,021	155	3.1
Textile materials, textile products	18,481	970	20
Rubber, rubber products	1,365	75	1.4
Railroad cars, automobiles	5,410	226	4.5
Machinery, instruments	16,938	1,127	23
Total imports	382,364	4,934	100

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Exports in 1938

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Million Leva</u>	<u>Percent of Total Exports</u>
Livestock	10,856	200	3
Animal products	25,663	753	13.5
Including eggs	15,180	436	-
Grains, cereal	190,951	582	10.4
Fruits, vegetables	137,751	1,120	20.1
Including grapes	57,205	554	-
Tobacco and other com- modities	40,729	2,386	42.8
Including tobacco	33,553	2,364	-
Essential oils	36	83	1.5
Raw and processed hides	2,008	173	3.1
Total exports	500,039	5,578	100

In the period from 1934 to 1938, the participation of foreign countries in total Bulgarian imports and exports was on an average as follows:

	<u>Percent of Imports</u>	<u>Percent of Exports</u>
1. Western countries (Britain, Belgium, US, France, Netherlands, Switzer- land, Sweden)	18.8	19.5
2. Germany and Italy	61.1	58.1
3. USSR and its satellites (Poland, Rumania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia)	14.8	9.9
4. Neighboring countries (Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia)	-	1.84

The two tables below show Bulgarian imports from and exports to the USSR and its satellites from 1934 to 1938.

Bulgarian Imports (in percent of total)

<u>From</u>	<u>1934</u>	<u>1935</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>
USSR	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
Poland	2.1	1.2	2.9	4.3	5.6
Rumania	4.2	3.1	3.1	2.9	3.5
Hungary	1	1.8	1.6	1.3	2.7
Czechoslovakia	3.8	9.7	7.7	5	5.9

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Bulgarian Exports (in percent of total)

To	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
USSR	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poland	1.6	2.1	3.7	4.7	5.7
Rumania	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
Hungary	0.4	2.4	1.2	0.9	1.3
Czechoslovakia	3.6	6.9	3.5	5.5	4.6

After 9 September 1944, when the Soviet Army occupied Bulgaria and put the Bulgarian Communists in power, the foreign trade of Bulgaria underwent radical changes as to the kinds of commodities involved and the participation of foreign countries.

The principal commodities imported and exported in 1944, 1945, and the first 11 months of 1946 were as follows, according to the monthly bulletins of the Bulgarian General Bureau of Statistics for 1946:

Imports to Bulgaria, 1944 - November 1946

	1944		1945		1946	
	Tons	Million Leva	Tons	Million Leva	Tons	Million Leva
Animal products	1,385	53	2,229	109	1,905	89
Grains (cereal)	43	1	14,815	214	91,410	1,695
Seeds, fodder	472	79	3,976	48	27,485	301
Fertilizers, waste material	3,501	28	2,623	6	16,363	240
Chemical products	8,360	273	8,544	249	24,324	918
Paints, lacquers, tanning extracts	2,035	162	1,585	124	2,292	217
Mineral oils	54,268	709	85,277	1,427	101,167	1,656
Pharmaceuticals	134	201	33	43	73	181
Metals, metal products	43,303	1,189	18,768	1,110	73,711	2,962
Materials for the paper industry, paper, cardboard	8,405	239	15,184	221	27,154	651
Leather, leather products	251	210	101	50	531	534
Textile materials, textile products	1,373	556	3,917	791	11,793	2,178
Rubber, rubber products	850	232	1,729	818	2,125	804
Railroad cars, auto- mobiles	5,125	285	643	141	2,035	291
Machinery, instru- ments	10,201	1,257	1,021	170	3,469	462
Total imports	196,476	6,278	169,462	5,820	401,457	13,643

German imports are still included in figures for 1944, and this explains the larger imports of metals, metal products, and machinery in 1944, in comparison to 1945. After 1944, imports from Germany ceased completely.

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Bulgarian Exports in 1944, 1945 and 1946

	1944		1945		1946	
	Tons	Million Leva	Tons	Million Leva	Tons	Million Leva
Eggs	1,245	169	297	88	0	0
Beans	4,277	89	19,987	554	7,844	218
Fresh grapes	6	0	783	30	188	8
Dehydrated vegetables	2,913	680	68	16	11	5
Vegetable seeds	291	215	295	163	289	245
Onion seeds for plant- ing	4,051	308	1,132	105	-	-
Strawberry preserves	952	26	3,364	111	2,750	166
Miscellaneous fruit preserves	2,098	45	617	18	425	21
Grape pulp	30,696	859	3,984	155	1,423	80
Apricot preserves, jellies	1,981	49	181	5	4,254	250
Apple preserves, jellies	9,827	202	1,198	39	6,414	311
Leaf tobacco	25,483	4,768	24,034	7,810	16,333	8,098
Wine in barrels	986	39	1,380	71	3,332	206
Pure alcohol	10	7	861	345	1,091	442
Grape brandy	501	123	807	175	1,226	249
Prune marmalade	1,538	127	149	13	-	-
Attar of roses	13 kg	12	3,523 kg	387	906 kg	298
Iron ores and slag	2,411	5	37,106	135	8,515	58
Copper ore	11,703	49	25,692	231	15,899	177
Purified lead ore	9,321	159	11,362	324	9,586	198
Crude ickel and zinc ores	3,874	48	6,702	96	4,536	66
Natural silk yarn	-	-	24	169	1	2
Total exports	383,242	11,357	179,520	12,232	121,593	12,823

The considerable quantities of pulp for export in 1945 and 1946 were des-  
tined for Germany, but because of military developments it became impossible to  
export the pulp to that country. All of it was purchased later on, after long  
negotiations and at low prices, by the USSR.

The Sofia periodical Pari i Kredit (Money and Credit), Vol I, 1948, gives  
the following data on Bulgarian foreign trade in 1947:

Principal Goods Imported to Bulgaria in 1947

	Million Leva	Percent of Total Imports
Metals, metal products	4,483	20.9
Textile materials, textile products	3,403	15.9
Machinery, apparatus	3,030	14.1
Railroad cars, automobiles	2,132	9.9
Mineral oils, resins	1,430	6.7
Other goods	6,937	32.5
Total	24,415	100

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Only the value of imported goods is given, not the quantity. In comparing these figures with prewar data one must bear in mind that, in 1947, the lev had only one tenth of its pre-World War II value.

The same periodical contained the following information and table on exports in 1947:

"Leaf tobacco continues to be the main Bulgarian export commodity in 1947. During the year, 32,662 tons of tobacco valued at 19,616,000,000 leva were exported. This represents 80 percent of the value of total exports, as compared to 63.9 percent in 1946."

#### Principal Goods Exported From Bulgaria in 1947

	<u>Million Leva</u>	<u>Percent of Total Exports</u>
Leaf tobacco	19,616	79.9
Purified lead ore	519	2.1
Black coal	330	1.4
Tomato puree	264	1.1
Wine in barrels	227	0.9
Vegetables	165	0.7
Raw lamb hides	255	1
Other goods	3,157	12.9
Total exports	24,533	

After 1947 no statistics on Bulgarian foreign trade were published. Only percentage data showing the participation of foreign countries in Bulgarian foreign trade was published occasionally.

Bulgarian foreign trade suffered especially great modifications after 9 September 1944 with regard to the countries with which she was trading.

According to data given by the official Bulgarian statistics organ, Mesechni Statisticheski Izvestiya na Glavnata Direktsiya na Statistikata (Monthly Statistical Information Bulletin of the Main Directorate of Statistics) imports to and exports from Bulgaria, by country, in 1944, 1945, and the first 11 months of 1946, were as follows:

#### Imports and Exports by Countries in 1944

<u>Country</u>	<u>Imports</u>			<u>Exports</u>		
	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Million Leva</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Million Leva</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Belgium	1,174	41	-	502	27	-
Germany	105,646	4,676	72.1	359,885	9,965	87.8
Greece	952	111	1.7	2,511	50	0.4
Italy	105	26	-	0	1	-
Portugal	143	93	-	22	14	-
Rumania	54,655	642	10	3,328	140	1.2
USSR	25	1	-	383	112	1
US	2	0	-	-	-	-
Turkey	2,638	181	2.8	7,342	74	0.5
Hungary	17,907	251	3.9	3,703	238	2.1

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Country	Imports			Exports		
	Tons	Million Leva	Percent	Tons	Million Leva	Percent
Finland	2,443	59	-	309	93	-
France	122	24	-	346	76	0.6
Netherlands	82	11	-	125	35	0.2
Czechoslo- vakia	6,237	225	3.5	1,445	134	1
Switzerland	128	38	0.5	929	198	1.7
Sweden	496	30	0.4	127	15	-
Yugoslavia	2,872	37	0.5	181	4	-
Total	196,476	6,478	100	383,242	11,357	100

Imports and Exports by Countries in 1945

Country	Imports			Exports		
	Tons	Million Leva	Percent	Tons	Million Leva	Percent
Austria	279	30	-	-	-	-
Britain	8	0	-	-	-	-
Belgium	24	2	-	-	-	-
Germany	5,237	369	6.3	1,938	60	0.5
Greece	63	11	-	113	5	-
Palestine	13	9	-	-	-	-
Poland	3	1	-	-	-	-
Portugal	72	40	-	-	-	0
Rumania	18,240	326	5.6	5,902	220	1.8
USSR	137,549	4,632	79.5	150,304	11,626	95
US	1	1	-	-	-	-
Turkey	6,239	315	5.4	19,734	282	2.3
Hungary	571	21	0.3	498	6	-
Finland	163	4	-	-	-	-
France	10	2	-	0	3	-
Czechoslo- vakia	14	3	-	4	8	-
Switzerland	4	1	-	4	1	-
Sweden	22	9	-	25	1	-
Yugoslavia	949	44	0.7	960	17	-
Total	169,462	5,820	100	179,520	12,232	100

Imports and Exports by Countries, January - November 1946

Country	Imports			Exports		
	Tons	Million Leva	Percent	Tons	Million Leva	Percent
Austria	193	40	-	2	4	-
Britain	1	2	-	600	43	0.3
Belgium	1,835	91	0.6	4,359	182	1.4
Germany	1,348	61	-	10	21	-

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Country	Imports			Exports		
	Tons	Million Leva	Percent	Tons	Million Leva	Percent
Greece	2	3	-	-	-	-
Denmark	1,459	94	0.6	75	29	-
Rumania	12,702	247	1.8	14,428	486	3.8
USSR	366,141	10,702	78.4	62,766	8,261	64.5
US	6,112	713	5.2	1,624	766	6
Syria	105	42	-	1,197	91	-
Turkey	5,982	362	2.6	17,743	310	2.4
Hungary	72	86	0.6	3,569	97	0.8
France	31	17	-	632	489	3.8
Czechoslo- vakia	3,312	899	6.5	10,940	1,397	10.8
Switzerland	205	72	0.5	356	210	1.6
Sweden	152	22	0.1	294	35	-
Yugoslavia	739	67	0.5	418	68	0.5
Italy	-	-	-	1,590	83	0.6
Norway	-	-	-	362	56	0.4
Palestine	-	-	-	108	8	-
Poland	-	-	-	299	184	1.4
Portugal	-	-	-	61	35	-
Other countries	1,066	123	-	-	-	-
Total	401,457	13,643	100	121,593	12,923	100

In connection with Bulgarian foreign trade by countries in 1947, Part 1  
Kredit, Vol I, 1948, wrote as follows:

"Foreign trade of Bulgaria in 1947 is improving as regards the variety of goods and the number of foreign markets. New trade agreements were signed by Bulgaria in 1947 with the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Yugoslavia, and trade relations were renewed with almost all European countries with which Bulgaria had no commercial dealings. Bulgaria signed trade agreements with Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, West and East Germany, Austria, Hungary, Finland, Sweden, and, toward the end of the year, Italy."

"Foreign trade is directed this year mainly toward the USSR, but there have been transactions with other countries too."

Imports and Exports by Countries in 1947

Country	Imports		Exports		Balance (Million leva)
	Million Leva	Percent of Total Imports	Million Leva	Percent of Total Exports	
USSR	12,974	60.6	12,724	51.8	-250
Czechoslovakia	3,389	15.8	4,637	18.9	1,248
Poland	974	4.5	2,019	8.2	1,045
Yugoslavia	784	3.7	1,175	4.8	391
Turkey	397	1.9	414	1.7	17
Rumania	362	1.7	193	0.8	169
Other countries	2,535	11.8	3,371	13.8	836
Total	21,415	100	24,533	100	3,118

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The extent to which the participation of the USSR and its satellites has increased in the foreign trade of Bulgaria can be seen from the following percentage data (percentages for 1948 were taken from The Statesman's Year-Book, 1950, p 834) [note in original]:

Imports of Bulgaria (in percent of total)

<u>From</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>
USSR	0.0	79.5	78.4	60.6	58.4
Hungary	3.9	0.3	0.6	1.1	1.3
Czechoslovakia	3.5	0.0	6.5	15.8	12.1
Poland	-	0.0	-	4.5	6.2
Rumania	10	5.6	1.8	1.7	1.5
Total	17.4	85.4	87.3	83.7	79.5
Other countries	82.6	14.6	12.7	16.3	20.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Exports of Bulgaria (in percent of total)

<u>To</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>
USSR	1	95	64.5	51.8	52
Hungary	2.1	0.0	0.8	1	1.3
Czechoslovakia	0.2	0.0	10.8	18.9	10.5
Poland	-	-	1.4	8.2	4.6
Rumania	1.2	1.8	3.8	0.8	0.6
Total	4.5	96.8	81.1	80.7	69.0
Other countries	95.5	3.2	18.9	19.3	31
Total	100	100	100	100	100

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